

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS / SPOUSES AS VOLUNTEERS

Volunteering can help you be of assistance to people in need, share your culture, improve your English skills and engage you as an active member of the Bloomington community. Start volunteering today!

For more information go to www.bloomington.in.gov/volunteer or contact 349-3433 or volunteer@bloomington.in.gov

USA - A country known for volunteerism

About 60.8 million people volunteered in the USA in 2007, over 26 percent of the population. [Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor] Volunteering – contributing time, effort and expertise without financial benefit - is an essential part of the lives of many Americans and works to build on community assets and solve community problems.

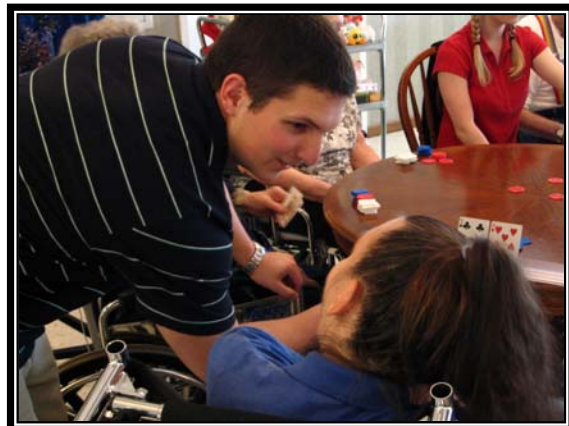
Bloomington - A city with a strong volunteer tradition

The City of Bloomington Volunteer Network had its beginnings in 1980. At this time Bloomington was only the second municipality in the country to sponsor such a facility, the other being New York City. Now, over 200 community organizations request volunteers every year.

Why volunteer?

Volunteering is a great way -

- To meet new people
- To connect you to the community
- To help people in need
- To share your culture
- To use your skills or learn new ones
- To keep your resumé current
- To practice English
- And to have fun!



How to get started?

Do you like animals? Do you like kids? Do you have a skill to use through volunteering or do you want to learn new skills? Find your interest first, then find your available time. Do not over-commit your schedule; a slow start might be better. Once you determine your interests, the next step is searching for volunteer opportunities matching your preferences. Nonprofit organizations also want to make sure your services will fit their needs. They may interview you or may ask you to take training before volunteering. Usually, you may wait to make a commitment to volunteer until after you have taken the training.

How to get information?

Use the City of Bloomington Volunteer Network. A comprehensive volunteer opportunities list is on our Web site. Go to <http://bloomington.in.gov/volunteer/> and see "Volunteer Opportunities Guide." The Interest/Skills Index will help to narrow your search.

We send e-mails weekly for current volunteer opportunities, called the Weekly Volunteer Update.

SUBSCRIBE NOW: To SUBSCRIBE to this mailing list: send a BLANK email to: cbvnweekly-subscribe@bloomington.in.gov [Once you are subscribed, you will receive only one email per week.]

Contact our friendly staff.

Call 349-3433 or e-mail volunteer@bloomington.in.gov.

If you, or a member of your family, has limited English skills:

See the opportunities listed on the following pages for suggestions about where to volunteer. Many organizations welcome elementary and intermediate English learners.

If you are interested in family volunteering:

There are many organizations that welcome families. Your children may be too young to actually volunteer, but they can accompany you. Check "minimum age" notations on the website.

If you have never volunteered before:

Why don't you experience one-time volunteer opportunities, such as special events, first? Check Weekly Volunteer Update e-mails.

If you have any questions:

Call 349-3433 or e-mail volunteer@bloomington.in.gov

Sample Volunteer Opportunities for International Students

Organization Name	Area 10 Agency on Aging
Address	630 W. Edgewood Dr., Ellettsville
	Celebrates the human potential and provides services to assure the independence, health and dignity of older residents. Services include in-home services for frail elderly, hot lunches, food pantry, information and assistance, caregiver support, older worker employment, transportation, fitness and recreational programs, long-term care ombudsman.
Volunteer Contact	Ashley Hillman ahillman@rea10agency.org (812) 876-3383
Volunteer Position	1) Senior Citizens' Nutrition Project 2) Friendly Visitor 3) Area 10 Office Assistant
Minimum Age	18
Position Description	1) Senior Citizens' Nutrition Project Help serve lunch to senior citizens at one of nine locations in Monroe and Owen Counties. Hours are any day, Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Elementary level English 2) Friendly Visitor Visit homebound seniors once a week for an hour. Report any problems or concerns about the senior to Area 10 Agency on Aging. Hours are flexible. Intermediate level English 3) Area 10 Office Assistant Help Area 10 staff with various duties at the office in Ellettsville. Training provided and hours are flexible. Elementary to Intermediate level English.
Hours	See above
English Level	See above

Organization Name	Arlington Heights Elementary School
Address	800 W. Gourley Pike, Bloomington (Bus route 6)
	Serves kindergarteners through sixth graders and has a current student population of 282.
Volunteer Contact	Linda Black, School Principal lcblack@mccsc.edu (812) 330-7747
Volunteer Position	Library Assistant
Minimum Age	18
Position Description	If you are interested in education, and like to be around children, this is a good opportunity for you. Duties include shelving books in the library and other tasks to assist the librarian. This volunteer position involves primarily adult interaction. The school principal, Linda Black, sees this as a nice opportunity for the staff and students to meet others from different cultures.
Hours	Afternoon, Tuesday and Friday

English Level	Elementary
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Organization Name	Bloomington Hospital
Address	601 W. 2nd Street, Bloomington (Bus route 2, 4)
	Bloomington Hospital & Healthcare System exists to provide comprehensive, high quality, cost-effective and caring services to the people in South Central Indiana.
Volunteer Contact	Connie Hill, Volunteer Services Director chill@bloomingtonhospital.org (812) 353-9468
Volunteer Position	Vary
Minimum Age	14 Teens are welcome.
Description	Prepare informational packets and assist with bulk mailings or other areas as appropriate. Connie will find your appropriate position depending on your English level and preference. If you are interested in the health professions, this is one way to introduce yourself to the Bloomington Hospital facility.
Hours	2 hour shifts, 7 days/week
English Level	Elementary

Organization Name	City of Bloomington Animal Care & Control
Address	3410 Old SR 37 South, Bloomington
	Bloomington Animal Care & Control is an open admission shelter receiving up to 40 animals a day. Volunteers are essential to the care and comfort of shelter animals. BACC provides sheltering for homeless animals, assists in re-uniting lost pets with their families, and welcomes visitors to adopt a new best friend.
Volunteer Contact	Kathy Obrakta, Volunteer Program Director obraktak@bloomington.in.gov (812) 349-3872
Volunteer Position	1) Dog Walkers 2) Cat Care 3) Adoption Counselors
Minimum Age	16 Families and teens are welcome.
Position Description	1) Dog Walkers – Walk dogs of all sizes and energy levels. Will be asked to walk at least 14 dogs. 2) Cat Care – Clean cages and give food, water, and attention. For either position, minimum age is 16. Must be able to follow basic instructions. Previous contact with pets is helpful. 3) Adoption Counselors – Must have prior experience with animals, such as being a pet owner for a number of years. Additional training and time commitments apply for this position.
Hours	2-3 hours/week + 1) Dog Walker shifts: Monday 8:30 - 10:30 a.m., Tuesday 3 – 5 p.m., Saturday 3 - 5p.m.

English Level	1) and 2) Elementary, 3) Intermediate
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Organization Name	Community Kitchen of Monroe County
Address	917 S. Rogers Street, Bloomington
	Provides hot, nutritious meals to individuals in need Monday through Saturday, free of charge with no questions asked. Also distributes meals to kids through "Feed our Future" Summer Breakfast Program.
Volunteer Contact	Annie Brookshire, Volunteer coordinator volunteer@monroecommunitykitchen.com (812) 332-0999
Volunteer Position	Meal Preparers & Servers
Minimum Age	14 or 10 with accompanying adult
Position Description	Prepare or serve dinner for people with low incomes in a public facility. Volunteers cut vegetables and fruit and help in other ways during the preparation shift or help serve the cafeteria-style meals during the serving shift. There is very little interaction with the general public in the preparation shift, but the meal serving shift will have interaction with the public. If you would like to bring your children with you, they must be at least 10 years at age.
Hours	11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. for preparation, 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. for serving Monday – Saturday
English Level	Elementary

Organization Name	El Centro Comunal Latino (The Latino Community Center)
Address	303 E. Kirkwood, VITAL Room 11, Bloomington
	Seeks to provide an accessible and safe facility for all local Latinos and to promote communication and understanding between social service agencies and the Latino community to improve the quality of life of Latinos and encourage their active participation in the greater Bloomington community.
Volunteer Contact	Melissa Britton elcentro@elcentrocomunal.org (812) 355-7513
Volunteer Position	Special events volunteer
Minimum Age	18 Families are welcome.
Description	Volunteer projects will depend on the individual, but may include making flyers and other promotional materials or helping to organize community events.
Hours	Depends on events
English Level	Elementary, but also Intermediate. Fluent Spanish speaker preferable.

Organization Name	Hoosier Hills Food Bank
Address	615 N. Fairview St., Bloomington
	Collects, stores and distributes donated food to 84 non-profit organizations with feeding programs that directly serve needy and hungry people. In 2004, distributed nearly 1.8 million pounds of food to hungry people.
Volunteer Contact	Kim Kanney, Volunteer coordinator volunteer@hhfoodbank.org (812) 334-8374
Volunteer Position	Repack assistants (MealShare program)
Minimum Age	16 Families are welcome.
Position Description	Package food which will be frozen and served later to people with low incomes. This is another fun opportunity to practice English in a small group of 6 to 10 volunteers who package cooked food into individual serving trays. You are welcome to bring children. You can volunteer alone, make arrangements to volunteer with a friend, or compose the entire group of volunteers. There is no interaction with the general public.
Hours	Times vary, Monday, Wednesday or Friday evenings
English Level	Elementary

Organization Name	Latino Programs and Outreach, City of Bloomington Community & Family Resources Dept.
Address	401 N. Morton St., Ste. 260, Bloomington (Bus route 2, 3, 6)
	Serves as a liaison for the Department and community organizations giving support to Latinos and immigrant populations and promoting diversity and cultures. Provides direct services, including referrals, interpretation and translation to Spanish speaking people.
Volunteer Contact	Melissa Britton brittonm@bloomington.in.gov (812) 349-3860
Volunteer Position	Office Assistant
Minimum Age	16 Teens are welcome.
Position Description	Fluent Spanish speakers with limited English speaking skills are welcome to help with general office duties, including data entry, photocopying and assisting with bulk mailings, and for an assortment of other interesting and challenging volunteer positions including outreach, event planning and more.
Hours	Vary
English Level	Elementary but Spanish fluency is critical.

Organization Name	Shalom Community Center
Address	Basement of First United Methodist Church 219 E. 4th St., Bloomington (Downtown)
	A safe, daytime resource center for those experiencing homelessness or poverty conditions; providing breakfast and lunch daily as well as referrals, social service contacts, job help, clothes, groceries and internet access. Operating hours: Mon-Fri 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Volunteer Contact	Pam Kinnaman pam@shalomcommunitycenter.org (812) 334-5734
Volunteer Position	Kitchen Assistants
Minimum Age	15 Families and Teens are welcome.
Description	Breakfast and lunch are prepared in the hustle and bustle of this large kitchen from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. They say that the work would go smoothly with up to 2 people at a time with limited English skills. There will be some interaction with the clientele and the general public, as the facility is open all day.
Hours	2 hour shifts between 7:30 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday
English Level	Elementary

Organization Name	WonderLab Museum of Science, Health & Technology
Address	308 W. 4th St., Bloomington, IN 47408
	Provides opportunities for people of all ages, especially children, to experience the wonder and excitement of science through exhibits and programs that stimulate curiosity, encourage exploration and foster lifelong learning.
Volunteer Contact	Jeanne Gunning, Volunteer Coordinator jeanne@wonderlab.org (812) 337-1337 ext. 21
Volunteer Position	Discovery Coaches
Minimum Age	7 th Grade or older Families and Teens are welcome.
Position Description	Discovery coaches encourage visitors to explore hands-on exhibits, programs and activities. A science background is not required as training is provided. Volunteer trainings are posted on the Web site (http://www.wonderlab.org/).
Hours	2 hours/shift, Tuesday through Sunday
English Level	Intermediate